

FOCUS

Missouri

Show Me eInformation

December 2, 2005

HEADLINE NEWS

Springfield Breaks Ground on Innovation Center



A groundbreaking ceremony was held this week for the new Jordan Valley Innovation Center in Springfield. The vacant Missouri Farmers Association feed mill will be transformed into the high-tech innovation center, housing both corporate and university laboratories. The center will boost advanced science and technology growth at Missouri State University's Springfield

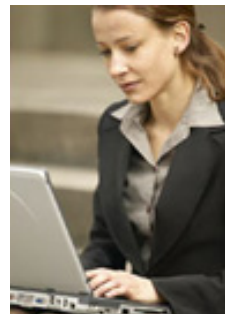
campus and for the state of Missouri. [Read more...](#)

Small Businesses Invited to Testify About Regulatory Fairness

The [Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board](#) will hold its first public hearing on Thursday, Jan. 5, seeking public comment on state rules and regulations that impact small business. The hearing will be held from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. in Room 450 of the Governor Office Building, 200 Madison Street, Jefferson City.

Small business owners who wish to comment on how state agency rules and regulations affect their operations may do so by oral or written testimony. Those small businesses wishing to provide oral testimony must register no later than Jan. 2, 2006.

Written testimony should be mailed to the Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board or by email no later than Dec. 30. [For more details...](#)



Missouri Metro Areas Added Jobs in October



Employment increased in Missouri's metropolitan areas in October, while unemployment rates statewide were generally about the same or slightly lower than in September. Non-farm payrolls grew in all seven metropolitan areas despite a dip of 4,700 jobs reported statewide in October. Over the year, most metros have experienced some job growth. About 27,000 new jobs have been created in Missouri since January. [Read more...](#)

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BUSINESS

GLOBAL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 7, 2005

[Volunteer Programs Workshop in Trenton](#)

December 15, 2005

[Home Town Competitiveness Mini-Academy](#)

January 4, 2006

[93rd General Assembly 2nd Regular Session Convenes](#)

January 31 - February 2, 2006

[WestPack 2006](#)

ARCHIVED REPORTS

[Missouri's Exports \\$800 Million Ahead of Last Year's Record Pace](#)

[Incentives Review](#)

Missouri's Electrical Rates Among Lowest in Nation



The state's electrical rates in 2004, as measured in cents per kilowatt-hour, were the sixth and eighth lowest for all 50 states plus the District of Columbia for commercial users and residential users respectively. The average residential rate was 7.06 cents per kilowatt-hour and the commercial rate was 5.86 cents per kilowatt-hour - making the Show-Me State an increasingly better, low-cost place to live and do business. [Read more...](#)

Occupational Data: The Occupational Employment Statistics Program

MERIC produces a wide variety of career information products, and the data for many of these publications comes either directly or indirectly from the Occupational Employment Statistics Program. The Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) program produces estimates of the number of people employed in over 800 occupations in Missouri and estimates of the wages paid to them. [Read more...](#)



FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Enhanced Enterprise Zone Designation for Pettis County

Pettis County has received enhanced enterprise zone status to help create jobs and spur private investment throughout the county. The new zone's boundaries will encompass a good portion of Pettis County from east to west along U.S. Highway 50 and the Union Pacific Railroad mainline. The new program will help create jobs by providing state and local benefits to companies that expand or locate in the zone, which includes the cities of La Monte, Sedalia and Smithton. [Read more...](#)

Jefferson City Among

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

Looking for Career Options?

According to a recent *Springfield Business Journal* article, there is a great need for pharmacists in the Show Me State. In fact, only five other states have a greater demand than Missouri. The American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education reports there is a shortage of 8,000 pharmacists nationwide. With an aging baby-boomer population, the need for pharmacists is likely to remain high for quite some time. [Read more...](#)

Layoffs, UI Claims Decreased in October

Mass layoffs and initial claims for unemployment

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

St. Joseph Processing Facility Expands

Ag Processing Inc. (AGP) has announced plans for a major expansion project at its St. Joseph soybean processing plant. The expansion, scheduled for completion by the harvest of 2008, will make the St. Joseph plant one of the largest of the AGP soybean processing facilities in the Midwest. Ag Processing is a farmer-owned cooperative engaged in the procurement, processing, marketing and transportation of grains and grain products. [Read more...](#)

Ford Claycomo Debuts New Hybrid

[Committee Issues Final Report Designed to Improve Programs](#)

[November 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

[October 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

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[Dept. of Economic Development \(DED\)](#)

[State of Missouri](#)

[Missouri LocationOne](#)

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Nation's Safest Cities

Jefferson City was ranked in the top 25 safest metropolitan areas by Morgan Quitno Press. The company recently published its annual city crime rankings, which analyze a city's rate for murder, rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary and motor vehicle theft. The research firm uses the information to determine which cities and metropolitan areas of 75,000+ populations are either the safest or most dangerous places. [Read more...](#)

Columbia Adopts Hurricane Damaged City

The city of Pascagoula, Mississippi, was among the communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. Nearly 90 percent of the city and 60 to 65 percent of its businesses sustained water damage. In an effort to help, the Columbia City Council unanimously agreed to adopt the city and aid in its recovery. [Read more...](#)

in Missouri fell dramatically in October compared to the same month last year, according to the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics. Missouri reported only eight mass layoffs in October compared to 21 layoffs in October 2004. Likewise, there were 1,773 unemployment insurance claims this October, significantly less than the 4,723 claims made a year ago. [Read more...](#)

Kauffman Foundation Hosts Jobs Forum

Outsourcing jobs, business tax incentives and government's role in workforce development were among the hot topics at a town hall meeting last month titled "American Jobs: A National Conversation." The event was hosted at the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City and included a panel featuring top executives from Cerner Corporation, Fleishman-Hillard Inc., H&R Block and the University of Missouri. [Read more...](#)

Ford Motor Co. recently went into full scale production of its Mercury Mariner Hybrid at its Kansas City Assembly Plant in Claycomo. Workers actually began building the new vehicle two months ago -- one year ahead of schedule due to the popularity of the Ford Escape Hybrid, which is also built there. The company plans to build 4,000 Mariner Hybrids a year at the Claycomo plant, which, by the way, is currently the only Ford plant that builds hybrid vehicles. [Read more...](#)

Engineering Firm Expands in KC

Engineering, architecture and planning firm Bucher Willis & Ratliff Corp. announced last week that it will move and expand its office space by 60 percent. About 120 employees work at the new location in Executive Hills East in south Kansas City and the company expects to hire about 40 people over the next four years. [Read more...](#)

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GLOBAL NEWS

Manufacturers Expect Higher Revenue



According to an annual survey by Bank of America Business Capital, 75 percent of chief financial officers from midsize and large manufacturing companies expect revenues to increase next year and about half of them predict increased profit margins. Nearly 70 percent of the CFOs whose companies sell to foreign markets expect those sales to increase in 2006, particularly in Asia and Europe.

[Read more...](#)

Mergers and Acquisitions Expected to Hit Manufacturing in '06

Thirty percent of CFOS surveyed by Bank of America Business Capital predicted their companies would be part of a merger or acquisition in 2006 - the highest percentage in the survey's eight-year history. Although the manufacturing sector's overall outlook on growth is positive, chief worries include health care and fuel costs. [Read more...](#)



Skills Shortages Threaten U.S. Manufacturing



More than 80 percent of U.S. manufacturers are experiencing an overall shortage of qualified workers, making it increasingly difficult for them to compete in the global economy, according to a new report by the National Association of Manufacturers (NAM), the Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte Consulting. "The survey exposes a widening gap between the dwindling supply of skilled workers in America and the growing technical demands of the modern manufacturing workplace," explained NAM President John Engler. "It is essential that America close this skills gap if we are to maintain our edge in the global marketplace and remain the world's leader in innovation." [Read more...](#)

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Missouri

Show Me  Information

December 9, 2005

HEADLINE NEWS

Blunt Takes First International Trade Mission to Mexico

Gov. Matt Blunt led his first international trade mission to Mexico this week, meeting with government and business leaders to discuss ways for the Show Me State to expand its strong relationship with its second largest trading partner and to further discuss how Kansas City's SmartPort will speed up trade and reduce the barriers for exported goods.



Blunt met with Mexican President Vicente Fox and U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Antonio Garza, attended an event in his honor by the American Chamber of Commerce and called on government and business leaders from Port of Lazaro Cardenas and Monterrey.

State's General Revenue Collections



Missouri's fiscal year-to-date net general revenue collections continued to climb, increasing by 4.9 percent from \$2.65 billion last year to \$2.78 billion this year. An unexpectedly high rate of refunds, however, caused year-to-date collections to decrease by 0.6 percent in November. Nevertheless, Gov. Matt Blunt is encouraged that new high-paying jobs have had a positive impact on individual income tax collections and that job growth is forecast to remain

steady in the coming months. [Read more...](#)

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BUSINESS

GLOBAL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

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January 4, 2006

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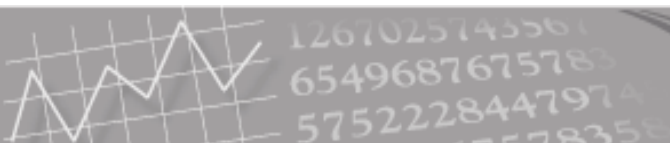
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2006**

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[Small Businesses Invited
to Testify about
Regulatory Fairness of
State Agencies](#)

[Blunt Announces
Enhanced Enterprise
Zone Designation for](#)



Getting County Data: The QCEW Program



The Quarterly Census of Employment Wages (QCEW) provides some of the most detailed industry and establishment data available on the county level. The QCEW program provides data on monthly employment, total quarterly wages, taxable wages, employer contributions and other business identification information on employers that are liable under their respective state's Unemployment Insurance laws. In Missouri, it covers over 167,000 establishments, 2.6 million employees, and \$91.6 billion in wages. [Read more...](#)

Profiling Missouri Communities: West Plains

West Plains is Missouri's 60th largest city with a population of 11,112. The city is the county seat of Howell County, an area in south central Missouri projected to have population growth of 22.1% by 2025, far greater than the 9.2% projected growth for the state. [Read more...](#)



Enhanced Enterprise Zone for City of Mexico, Part of Audrain County

The city of Mexico and a portion of Audrain County have received enhanced enterprise zone status to help create jobs and spur private investment in the area. The new zone's boundaries will include most of the city of Mexico and part of the unincorporated part of Audrain County, primarily to support future development to the south and southeast of the city. [Read more...](#)

Public Infrastructure Projects Receive Nearly \$1 Million in State Grants
Gov. Matt Blunt

Missouri Is a Good Place to Work

In a recent study, Missouri was among the top 20 states that exhibit the best relative work environment. In its report titled "Decent Work in America: The 2005 Work Environment Index," the Political Economy Research Institute evaluated how well each state was doing in creating an economy that supports its working population. The study measured job quality, job opportunities and workplace fairness. Missouri tied for 16th with Kentucky. [Read more...](#)

Training Opportunities in Springfield

Lowe's Selects St. Joseph for Distribution Center

Lowe's Companies, Inc. announced this week the selection of St. Joseph as the location for their 14th flatbed distribution center in the United States. The company may invest up to \$16 million in the project and will initially employ 35 people when the facility becomes operational in mid-2006. Additional positions will be created as demand requires. [Read more...](#)

Missouri Research Park Filling Final 50 Acres

Negotiations are underway with several prospective tenants/owners to fill the

Pettis County

[November 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

[October 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

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[Dept. of Economic Development \(DED\)](#)

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announced approval of state grants totaling nearly \$1 million that will help three Missouri communities improve water distribution systems in Keytesville and West Sullivan and renovate a cultural landmark in Willow Springs.

Keytesville received a \$500,000 CDBG water grant to replace water mains and the 75,000 gallon elevated storage tank that have been in place since the 1930s, as well as aging fire hydrants. West Sullivan received a \$215,000 CDBG water grant to construct a new water distribution system. Willow Springs received a \$250,000 CDBG grant on behalf of the Willow Springs Community Foundation to help in the renovation and preservation of its historic Charles Ferguson Building into a new community center. [Read more...](#)

The Springfield Career Center offers several free monthly workshops, including the Job Club & Career Morning held each Monday. Job seekers can listen to employers talk about their company and openings they have for employment. Upcoming speakers include Paragon Investigations and Tuthill Blower Systems. For additional information, visit [City of Springfield](#).

Fresh Express to Close KC Plant

Missouri's Rapid Response Team will meet next week with about 75 workers who will be laid off when Fresh Express closes its Kansas City division by the end of the month. For more information about re-employment services offered at no charge to the affected employee, call 1-800-877-8698 or go to [Rapid Response](#). [Read more...](#)

remaining 50 acres at the Missouri Research Park in St. Charles. Fifty developable acres remain at the 20-year-old, 700-acre research and technology park, owned by the University of Missouri. The park currently is home to 15 businesses, two government agencies and the Missouri Bluffs Golf Course. [Read more...](#)

State's First FTTS Broadband Utility Under Construction

North Kansas City officials broke ground this week on the city's liNKCity fiber optic network, the first municipally owned FTTS (fiber to the subscriber) broadband utility in Missouri. The superior bandwidth and pricing schedule of the network will provide one of the most affordable high bandwidth systems in the United States. [Read more...](#)



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GLOBAL NEWS

California Business Park May Draw Thousands of Jobs



A California-based investment company, The Allen Group, has unveiled its plans for a 4,500-acre business park in Dallas County's Southern Sector. The Dallas Logistics Hub could host 60 million square feet of industrial space that may generate between 20,000 and 30,000 jobs. [Read more...](#)

Tech Funding for Pennsylvania

Gov. Ed Rendell announced last month the investment of \$29.5 million in five new Pennsylvania technology companies. The investments are the first under the state's \$60 million New PA Venture Capital Investment Fund and will be used to make minority or early-stage investments or to acquire interests in various mid-Atlantic based tech companies, the energy and power sectors and manufacturing. [Read more...](#)



Research Center for Hopkins Campus



The Carnegie Institution has dedicated a new \$31 million research building on the John Hopkins University's Homewood Campus. The 80,000-square-foot building, which will house Carnegie's Department of Embryology, is equipped with 13 research laboratories, a library, meeting rooms, genomics facilities and specialized instrument rooms. [Read more...](#)



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December 16, 2005

HEADLINE NEWS

Chrysler Group Plans \$1 Billion Investment in Fenton Facilities



Gov. Matt Blunt and top Chrysler Group officials announced the automaker's plans to invest up to \$1 billion in the St. Louis North and St. Louis South Assembly Plants in Fenton over the next several years. The investment will be shared between the two plants and is expected to give both plants additional state-of-the-art manufacturing capabilities and modernization. *(Photo: William Greenblatt - UPI)*

[Read more...](#)

Foreign Investment Supports Many Missouri Jobs

U.S. subsidiaries of companies headquartered abroad employ 87,200 Missourians, or nearly 4 percent of the state's workforce, according to the Organization for International Investment (OFII). The Show Me State ranks 20th in the nation for the total number of insourcing jobs, with nearly half of those in the manufacturing sector. Over the last five years, the number of insourcing jobs in Missouri grew by 13,200 jobs, or 18 percent. [Read more...](#)



Blunt Creates the Hispanic Business, Trade and Culture Commission



Gov. Matt Blunt signed an executive order last week creating the Hispanic Business, Trade and Culture Commission, which will better address the needs of the growing Hispanic business community in Missouri. The commission will act as an advisory board to the Department of Economic Development's Office of International Trade and Investment regarding trade and investment issues important to the Hispanic business community in Missouri. [Read more...](#)

COMMUNITY

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BUSINESS

GLOBAL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 4, 2006

[93rd General Assembly
2nd Regular Session
Convenes](#)

January 31 - February 2,
2006

[WestPack 2006](#)

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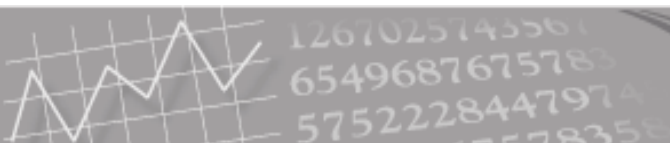
MEDC Winter Conference
Capitol Plaza Hotel
Jefferson City

February 8, 2006

Missouri Arts Awards
Capitol Rotunda -
Jefferson City

ARCHIVED REPORTS

[Missouri Employment
Resumes Positive Climb
in November With 3,500
New Jobs](#)



MERIC Partnership Brings Entrepreneurship Data to Web



Entrepreneurs play a vital role in economic development as key contributors to technological innovation and new job growth. In 2000 there were almost 170,000 full-time entrepreneurs in Missouri. This data, as well as more detailed regional, ethnic, and socioeconomic information about entrepreneurs in Missouri, can be found on the new entrepreneurship database, *Entrepreneurs in Missouri*, a joint project between MERIC and the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED). [Read more...](#)

Daytime Population Changes in Missouri Cities

Each day commuters travel in and out of cities, sometimes causing significant changes in the size of those cities. Measuring this "daytime population" change can be a valuable tool for planning and policy development, including transportation and disaster planning. This first-ever release of daytime population data from the U.S. Census Bureau provides information for all Missouri counties and 146 cities in the state. [Read more...](#)



[Small Businesses Invited to Testify about Regulatory Fairness of State Agencies](#)

[November 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

[October 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

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[Dept. of Economic Development \(DED\)](#)

[State of Missouri](#)

[Missouri LocationOne](#)

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FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Grant Will Make Global Automotive's Expansion Possible

Global Automotive Parts LLC will privately invest at least \$1 million and create 50 new jobs thanks, in part, to a state grant that will help fund water and storm water drainage improvements necessary for the company's expansion. The \$200,000 industrial infrastructure grant through the Community Development Block Grant program was approved for the city of Pacific. [Read more...](#)

Sewer Improvements in Southwest City

The Missouri Department of Economic Development

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

New Career Center in Warrensburg

An open house and ribbon cutting ceremony christened the new Missouri Career Center at 1034 S. Maguire in Warrensburg recently. The Workforce Development Board of Western Missouri Inc., in conjunction with the Greater Warrensburg Area Chamber of Commerce, hosted the grand opening ceremony on November 28.

Women's Council Presents Funds for Breast Cancer Services

Mary Cottom, executive director of the Missouri Women's Council, presented a \$14,000

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Military Commission Issues Annual Report

The Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission has issued its 2005 Annual Report. The report contains information on the Commission and the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure Commission (BRAC) recommendations. Meetings will be held around the state during 2006 to gather input from businesses, economic developers and other interested parties on actions that could be taken to increase business opportunities for defense-related industries in Missouri. [Read more...](#)

awarded a \$500,000 wastewater grant to Southwest City. The state funds, granted through the Community Development Block Grant Program, will help construct a new sewage treatment and collection facility to meet the growing population's expanding public sewer needs. [Read more...](#)

City of Houston Receives FEMA Grant

The City of Houston received a \$572,000 Federal Emergency Management Administration grant to create a community storm shelter in downtown Houston that will eventually be a component of a new library. The funds will be used to create a 7,500 sq. ft. structure at the corner of First and Pine streets on property acquired south of the Houston Post Office. The storm shelter will be on the lower level of the Texas County Library's new home. [Read more...](#)

check to Bruce Jenkins, manager of the state health department's Show Me Healthy Women program, at the group's advisory board meeting in Columbia on Friday. Funds raised through the sales of the license plates are used solely to provide breast cancer services to eligible Missouri women between the ages of 40 and 49. [Read more...](#)

Outstanding Service to Veterans

Eight DWD staff members recently traveled to Washington DC after receiving "Outstanding Service to Veterans" awards from the Missouri Division of Workforce Development for their creative efforts in serving and promoting veterans. There the awardees were recognized at the U.S. Department of Labor "Salute to Veterans" ceremony on November 10 and attended the laying of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns on Veterans Day. [Awardees...](#)

Branson Sets New Construction Record

The value of new construction in the city of Branson through November 2005 totals \$121.5 million - a new one-year record. Construction totals so far in 2005 have already eclipsed 2004's total by \$45.1 million. Projects like Branson Landing, the Branson Convention Center and Hilton Branson Convention Center Hotel, and Branson Hills Plaza have contributed to the record-breaking year. [Read more...](#)

Springfield Utility Costs Lowest in Nation

Springfield boasts the nation's lowest utility rates in the third quarter of 2005, according to recently released cost of living data from ACCRA. Springfield's second and third quarter utility indexes were nearly 30 percent below the national average index of 100. [Read more...](#)

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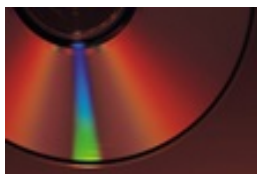
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GLOBAL NEWS

Microsoft Will Expand Presence in India



Microsoft has announced plans to nearly double its work force in India during the next four years, creating 3,000 jobs and investing \$1.7 billion - one of the largest investments an IT company has made in this country. Part of the investment will go toward creating a Windows operating system designed specifically for India and available in nine Indian languages.

The other portion will go to improving Microsoft's research and development capabilities, including the creation of a new facility in Bangalore, the country's tech hub. [Read more...](#)

Incentives Drive \$21M Texas Expansion

Four million in Texas state and local incentives are luring Raytheon Co. to move defense-program work from California to its plant in McKinney, Tex. The Massachusetts-based company will invest \$21 million to expand the Texas facility and create 200 new jobs averaging at least \$65,000 annually. The expansion will house the "electro-optic" work for a defense program already under way at Raytheon Space and Airborne Systems. [Read more...](#)



North Carolina Incentives Spur Business Investment, Jobs



Leading manufacturer of industrial and logistics controls and sensors, Hubbell Industrial Controls, will expand its Archdale, N.C. facility, creating 150 jobs and bringing \$4.5 million in investment to the Randolph County area. A \$150,000 state grant from the One

North Carolina Fund, a job creation incentive tool, helped facilitate the project. [Read more...](#)

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December 23, 2005

HEADLINE NEWS

Seasons Greetings from Director Steinhoff



2005 proved to be exciting times for the Missouri Department of Economic Development with the passage of Worker's Compensation and Tort Reform; the implementation of the Missouri Quality Jobs Act; and an aggressive plan of action to restructure the department, thus improving our ability to create jobs and expand economic opportunities for all Missourians. The great public/private partnerships we have built throughout the year are also a very important part of the success the department has experienced over the year. So to all of

our community, economic and workforce development partners, I wish you a *Merry Christmas and a happy and successful new year!* [Read More About DED's Success in 2005...](#)

Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board Cancels Jan. 5 Public Hearing

The Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board has cancelled its January 5, 2006 public hearing and will reschedule the hearing at a later date. While there were a number of small businesses with issues to discuss, few were able to take time from their business at this very busy time of the year. The Board encourages small business owners with comments to submit those comments to the Board by using the comment form found on the Board's website www.SBRFB.ded.mo.gov; by email SBRFB@ded.mo.gov; or by mail to SBRFB, Attn: Sharon Gulick, MO Dept. of Economic Development, P.O. Box 118, Jefferson City, MO 65102. For more information, please call 1-866-719-1401. [Read more...](#)

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BUSINESS

GLOBAL NEWS

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 4, 2006

[93rd General Assembly
2nd Regular Session
Convenes](#)

January 9, 2006

[CDBG Application
Training Workshop in
Jefferson City](#)

January 12, 2006

[CDBG Application
Training Workshop in
Springfield](#)

January 25 - 27, 2006

[2006 Annual Missouri
Community Development
Conference: Building
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January 31 - February 2,
2006

[WestPack 2006](#)

February 7-8, 2006

MEDC Winter Conference



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Twelve Days of Christmas More Expensive this Year



How much is true love worth? More than last year, according to the PNC Christmas Price Index - real French hens are nearly impossible to get but, on the other hand, maids-a-milking come cheap. [Read more...](#)

First Quarter 2006 Employment Outlook: Stable

Missouri's employment picture appears to be steady for early 2006, according to a survey by Manpower Inc. The worldwide staffing firm reports 66 percent of Midwestern employers surveyed said they expected no change in staffing, 19 percent expected to increase employment and 11 percent to decrease staffing levels. Employers in mining, wholesale and retail trade and public administration expect to increase staffing compared to the fourth quarter 2005, while those in construction, transportation, public utilities, finance, insurance and real estate expect to maintain current levels. [Read more...](#)



FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

Expanded Services at Camp David of the Ozarks

DED approved up to \$170,400 in Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits that are expected to leverage \$358,800 in donations for a new multi-purpose building at Camp David of the Ozarks, a camp for at risk youth run by Shepherd's Heart Ministries. [Read more...](#)

CDBG Application Training Workshops

Five training sessions on the state CDBG program will be held in January to teach participants how to complete the FY06 application. Participants will learn basic application requirements, plus more specific information geared

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

Nurses Still in High Demand

Vacancy rates for registered nurses and other health professionals are improving, according to the Missouri Hospital Association. The vacancy rate for all hospital positions is less than 10 percent for the third-consecutive year, but the number of registered nurses, respiratory therapists, operating technicians and pharmacists are all forecast for strong growth through at least 2010. [Read more...](#)

Rapid Response Team Aids HPI Workers

The Rapid Response Team was activated this week to help 234

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Express Scripts Buys Priority Healthcare Corp.

St. Louis-based Express Scripts has purchased Priority Healthcare, based in Florida, as part of its plan to expand in the biopharmaceutical industry. The merger will result in nearly \$3 billion in annual revenues for the companies. [Read more...](#)

Monsanto Soybean Oil Will Be Used in Kellogg Foods

The Kellogg Co. announced earlier this month that it will become one of the first food makers to use Monsanto's low-linolenic soybean oil in several of its products to reduce or eliminate trans fatty acids. The oil is made from Vistive soybeans,

Capitol Plaza Hotel
Jefferson City

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[November 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

[October 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

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[Dept. of Economic Development \(DED\)](#)

[State of Missouri](#)

[Missouri LocationOne](#)

[GreatHires.org](#)

[Missouri Training and Employment Council \(MTEC\)](#)

[MERIC](#)

[Missouri Community Service Commission \(MCSC\)](#)

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Missouri Economic Development Council \(MEDC\)](#)

toward each category of funding. FY06 applications will be available at each session, which is free and open to the public. No registration is necessary. [Workshop schedule...](#)

AmeriCorps Member to Spend Holidays in Mississippi

Joe Bowmaster, a Westminster College student and AmeriCorps volunteer, will spend his three-week Christmas hiatus working on the highly publicized collaborative project with the Corporation for National and Community Service, ABC's "Good Morning America" and the Salvation Army. These groups continue efforts to reconstruct Pass Christian, Miss. - the hometown of GMA co-anchor Robin Roberts. [Read more...](#)

employees affected by the upcoming closing of Home Products International, a custom plastic injection molding company in Louisiana. For more information, call toll free 1-800-877-8698 or go to [Rapid Response.](#)

Federal Grant Will Help Train New Energy Industry Workers

The University of Missouri has received more than \$2.3 million from the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration High Growth Job Training Initiative to develop a new associate's degree program in nuclear technology. In Missouri, Linn State Technical College's Advanced Technology Center and Ameren will participate in the initiative to help ensure qualified workers are available to enter the energy industry. [Read more...](#)

which reduce the need for partial hydrogenation of oil. Kellogg will work with the food industry to create a greater market demand for the soybeans. Some products to be made with Vistive oil will be available early next year. [Read more...](#)

KC Southern, Norfolk Southern Enter Joint Venture

Kansas City-based Kansas City Southern and Virginia-based Norfolk Southern Corp. railroads have agreed to a deal to jointly own and improve a key stretch of rail linking the southeast and southwest United States. As a result, both railroads will have an increased capacity to handle greater volumes and improve intermodal customer service. KC Southern will own 70 percent of the Meridian Speedway with Norfolk owning 30 percent of the line. [Read more...](#)

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GLOBAL NEWS

Kansas City's "NAFTA" Hub



Kansas City and the state of Missouri are preparing to play a lead role in the future development of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Notable accomplishments have already taken place regarding Kansas City's strong relationship with Mexico, including Kansas City's Mexiplex, its continued development of an inland port distribution center, and the proposed establishment of a Mexican Customs Office in Kansas City. Now development efforts are also looking northward and why not? Canada has long been Missouri's top trading partner, with exports to the country exceeding over 25% of Missouri's total exports.

A new door to trade and investment opportunities between Missouri and Manitoba was opened in October with the signing of the Winnipeg-Kansas City agreement in October. A delegation from Winnipeg visited Kansas City in November and now a trade mission from Kansas City will travel to Winnipeg in June 2006 as the two cities develop close ties important to the growth of the I-35 North/South corridor between

Mexico, Missouri and Manitoba. By creating new alliances to the north and south, Kansas City will serve as the conduit for increased NAFTA trade, creating new economic opportunities in a city that already boasts a strong distribution advantage. *(Pictured: Premier Gary Doer, Manitoba, Canada, speaking in Kansas City)* [Read more...](#)



Missouri

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December 30, 2005

HEADLINE NEWS

Department Completes Internal Reorganization



The Department of Economic Development has completed a major internal reorganization that builds on current strengths and incorporates a private sector approach to doing business. Just four months after announcing the reorganization effort, DED Director Greg Steinhoff announced the creation of the new Business and Community Services Division, which merges the former divisions of Business Development and Trade with

Community Development in order to take advantage of the combined expertise of both divisions. [Read more...](#)

November Employment Increases in Metros

Payroll employment increased seasonally in most of Missouri's metropolitan areas in November as retail stores ramped up for the holiday season and schools reached peak employment for the fall semester. The St. Louis metropolitan area added the most jobs with 6,400; Kansas City employment increased by 2,000 jobs; Columbia by 700 jobs; Joplin by 300 jobs; Jefferson City by 200 jobs and St. Joseph by 100 jobs. Springfield employment dipped by 100 jobs. Statewide, Missouri payrolls grew by 3,500 jobs in November, bringing to total 28,100 new jobs created since January.



Unemployment increased in all areas of the state in November, paralleling the increase in Missouri's figure of six-tenths of a point to 5.6 percent. Among metropolitan areas, Kansas City had the highest rate at 5.6 percent while Columbia's 3.5 percent was the lowest rate. St. Joseph experienced the largest increase: 0.9 percentage point with the other metropolitan rates increasing by 0.5 to 0.7 percent.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

January 4, 2006

[93rd General Assembly
2nd Regular Session
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January 9, 2006

[CDBG Application
Training Workshop in
Jefferson City](#)

January 12, 2006

[CDBG Application
Training Workshop in
Springfield](#)

January 12, 2006

[White House Faith-Based
and Community Initiatives
Conference](#)

January 25 - 27, 2006

[2006 Annual Missouri
Community Development
Conference: Building
Communities from Within](#)



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Military Retirees Fuel Entrepreneurial Growth In Missouri



Is the U.S. military an entrepreneurial breeding ground? Yes, says a new MERIC study, at least in Missouri - military retirees represent less than 11 percent of the state's population but almost 16 percent of the potential entrepreneurial pool. Military training pays off, it seems. [Read more...](#)

Personal Income Growth Above Nation's in 3rd Qtr

Personal income in Missouri increased 1.1 percent, from \$183.83 billion to \$185.82 billion, from the second quarter of 2005 to the third quarter of 2005, according to recently released data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). This outpaced the national average of 0.7 percent. [Read more...](#)



FOCUS ON COMMUNITY

North Side Team Ministry Receives NAP Tax Credits

North Side Team Ministry was approved for up to \$75,000 in Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits. The tax credits are expected to leverage \$150,000 in donations that will be used to renovate 10 vacant apartments and a main service building where training, job placement and recreational services will take place. [Read more...](#)

AmerenCDC Announces \$1.65 Million in Grants

Ameren Community Development Corporation announced that it has awarded \$1.65 million for projects that are expected to create or retain nearly 908 jobs in Missouri. The nine projects represent a diverse group of

FOCUS ON WORKFORCE

Hiring Expected to Remain Strong in '06

Fifty-three percent of Midwestern employers expect to hire more employees in 2006, according to [CareerBuilder.com](#). Job openings most in demand are customer service, sales, retail, information technology, accounting/finance and healthcare. [Read more...](#)

WIBs Receive Funds to Address Regional Skill Gaps

The Northwest, Southwest, and South Central Workforce Investment Boards, along with the Kansas City & Vicinity WIB joined with the East Jackson County WIB will each receive a portion of \$850,000 in funding for projects that address the critical skills

FOCUS ON BUSINESS

Procter and Gamble Receives Tax Credits for St. Louis Expansion

DED has approved \$500,000 in Development Tax Credits to assist Procter and Gamble Manufacturing as it expands its St. Louis facility and creates 34 new jobs. The company continues to expand its product base and will accommodate this growth by improving existing production lines and adding three new ones at the St. Louis site. [Read more...](#)

Funding Secured for SW Missouri Projects

U.S. House Majority Whip Roy Blunt has secured \$27.17 million in funding for projects in Southwest Missouri. Springfield's Jordan Valley Innovation Center (JVIC) and five

January 31 - February 2, 2006

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ARCHIVED REPORTS

[Blunt Announces State Tax Credits Will Help Expand Services at Camp David of the Ozarks](#)

[MEETING CANCELLATION: Small Business Regulatory Fairness Board](#)

[November 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

[October 2005 Missouri Focus Issues](#)

QUICK LINKS

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[State of Missouri](#)

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[Missouri Training and Employment Council \(MTEC\)](#)

[MERIC](#)

[Missouri Community Service Commission \(MCSC\)](#)

[Missouri Arts Council](#)

[Missouri Economic Development Council](#)

businesses and civic organizations, including non-profit development agencies and public entities. [Read more...](#)

River Roads Shopping Center Receives \$4.1 Million in Tax Credits

DED approved up to \$3,075,105 in Brownfield Redevelopment Program remediation tax credits and another \$1 million over a two-year period of Brownfield Jobs and Investment benefits for the River Roads Shopping Center redevelopment project. The tax credits will help offset costs involved in the cleanup of asbestos, lead-based paint and underground storage tanks at the site. The project is expected to create at least 160 new jobs and hundreds of housing units in the area. [Read more...](#)

gaps identified in these regions. The program - Missouri Regional Skill Gap Initiative - is a cooperative effort between DWD and the Missouri Division of Career Education. [Read more...](#)

Senate Approves Workforce Program Spending Cuts

Last week the U.S. Senate approved the FY 2006 Labor, Health and Human Service (HHS) and Education spending bill (H. R. 3010), which includes significant reductions to many workforce system programs. Federal appropriations will be cut for the WIA Adult and Youth programs, and maintained for the WIA Dislocated Worker and Prisoner Re-entry programs. The Community College Initiative will be eliminated. [Read more...](#)

research projects in the Springfield and Joplin areas will receive funding from the 2006 Department of Defense Appropriations Act approved Dec. 22. The bill includes \$4.4 million to complete the \$12 million first phase of converting the old MFA mill into the JVIC nanotechnology research center. [Read more...](#)

St. Louis Firms Named to Tech Fast 500

St. Charles-based Newberry Group Inc., privately held World Wide Technology in Chesterfield and St. Louis-based Talx Corp. were recently ranked No. 225, No. 248 and No. 383 respectively on the Deloitte Technology Fast 500 List. The list was based on five-year percentage growth. [Read more...](#)

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GLOBAL NEWS

Illinois, Indiana Team Up to Attract FutureGen Project



Indiana Gov. Mitch Daniels and Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich have agreed to join forces to make a united bid to attract the \$1 billion FutureGen project to the region. Through the bi-state, bipartisan partnership, Indiana will support Illinois' application to host the electric generating facility in Illinois, and Illinois will support carbon-dioxide sequestration projects related to FutureGen in Indiana. [Read more...](#)

Union County, S.C., Attracts BMW Supplier

LSP Automotive Systems Ltd. has announced it will build a \$96 million sheet metal stamping facility in Union County, S.C. The plant will supply parts, such as door panels, outer skins and front assemblies, to BMW Manufacturing Corp. in Greer, S.C., and is expected to be fully operational in 2008. It will initially employ 100 people. [Read more...](#)



Toyota Considering U.S. Site for Parts Plant



In a move to ward off renewed trade friction over automobiles between Japan and the U.S., Toyota Motor Corp. is considering building an engine and transmission manufacturing plant in the United States. A potential location may be in Michigan, as that state has been particularly hard hit by job losses and a declining regional economy due to the slumping auto industry there. It is

also already home to several other major Japanese auto parts makers. [Read more...](#)

